

Ladera Rancho Times &
LADERA TIMES

News Monthly

www.LaderaTimes.com

December 2014

Happy Holidays

page 24

**Miles, Ribotto
Elected to
LARMAC
Board**
page 12

**Pat Bates
Goes to
Senate**

Page 24

**Lisa Bartlett
Elected OC 5th
District Supervisor**
page 8



A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Fellow Laderians,

When we lived back East, we'd wished for a layer of overnight snow on Christmas Eve to add a flavor of authenticity to the holiday. We lived on the edge of a huge county park and, at midnight on Christmas Eve, my girls and I would trudge to a secluded life-size nativity scene hidden way back in the woods. With six or eight inches of fresh snow on the ground, the scene was very serene and most certainly surreal. We all have our traditions, but these are memories go way beyond the joy and happiness of the season.

With that pleasant vision in my head, please allow me to wish you a most heartfelt and genuine Happy Holiday season on behalf of me and the staff at the Ladera Times. *Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Mankind!*

Jim Schmitt, Editor and Publisher

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Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Feliz Navidad
Happy Kwanzaa

What am I forgetting? Oh yes, for the rest of us, there's Festivus



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Would you like to write an article on panhandling that continues to grow in Ladera Ranch?

I have been reporting numerous calls for three years now to the Sheriff's Department every time I see panhandlers in our community.

We left Laguna Niguel because it was happening everywhere. Gas stations, street corners.

Every time I call the Sheriff's Department they have come out and spoke with the individuals and they would leave.

Now I am getting

"there is no law against panhandling" I asked "what? I have been calling for years and you come right out? You just all of a sudden don't come anymore?"

The man is very irritated on the phone and says "What do you want, us to come out and talk to them?" (This was after he researched my phone number and saw my call log.) I said "Yes!"

My neighbors called the Sheriff's Office and got the same response "There is no law against panhandling and they hung up on her"

I am at the point of



making a sign and when I see them I am going to stand next to them with a sign that states there are social services, shelters and food services to give them aid, **Not Ladera Ranch Streets!**

This is only going to cause conflict between civilians.

The Sheriff's deputies need to keep coming and do their job to keep our parking lots and residents safe.

I am not going away. So if you see me next to some panhandling make sure to get my sign in the photo as well please.

Let me know if you would like to talk with me further on the issue
 Shelly Beckstoffer
 Ladera Ranch

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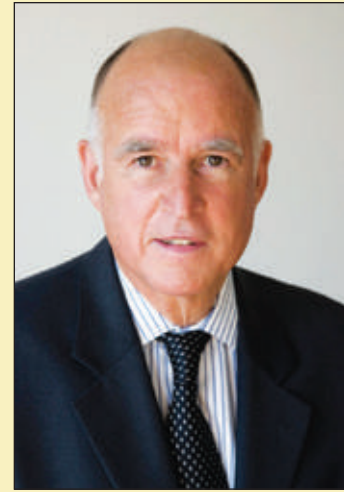


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GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS



CA Governor Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown

The following are Orange County (but not state-wide) results from the November 4 General Election affecting Ladera Ranch. Office winners are highlighted in **bold red**.

Governor	Vote Count	Pct.
Neel Kashkari	344,181	55.6%
Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown	274,496	44.4%

Lieutenant Governor	Vote Count	Pct.
Ron Nehring	357,511	58.8%
Gavin Newsom	250,853	41.2%

Secretary Of State	Vote Count	Pct.
Pete Peterson	370,997	61.4%
Alex Padilla	233,425	38.6%

Attorney General	Vote Count	Pct.
Ronald Gold	348,214	57.5%
Kamala D. Harris	257,411	42.5%

United States Congressman 49th District	Vote Count	Pct.
Darrell Issa	28,328	68.8%
Dave Peiser	12,870	31.2%

State Board Of Equalization 4th District	Vote Count	Pct.
Diane L. Harkey	388,573	66.3%
Nader Shahatit	197,614	33.7%

State Senator, 37th State Senate District	Vote Count	Pct.
Patricia C. "Pat" Bates	81,270	71.2%
Gary Kephart	32,834	28.8%

Orange County 5th District Supervisor	Vote Count	Pct.
Lisa Bartlett	67,342	54.5%
Robert Ming	56,116	45.5%

State Assembly 73rd District	Vote Count	Pct.
William (Bill) Brough	76,666	67.9%
Wendy Gabriella	36,254	32.1%

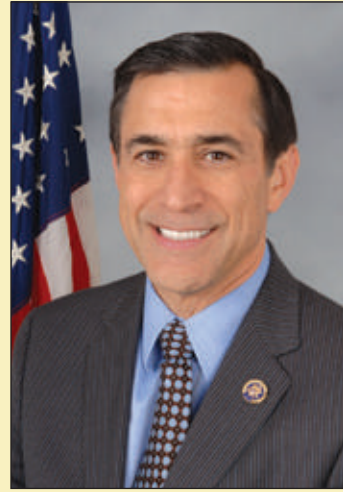
CUSD Governing Board Trustee Area 4	Vote Count	Pct.
Martha Mcnicholas	6,831	58.0%
Craig P. Alexander	4,937	42.0%

CUSD Governing Board Trustee Area 6	Vote Count	Pct.
Gila Jones	5,223	58.9%
Ellen M. Addonizio	3,638	41.1%

CUSD Governing Board Trustee Area 7	Vote Count	Pct.
Lynn Hatton	6,351	52.3%
Julie Collier	5,783	47.7%



State Board Of Equalization 4th District Diane L. Harkey



US Congressma Darrell Issa, CA 49th District



Orange County 5th District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett



CA Assembly 73rd District William (Bill) Brough

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Here's a Novel Idea: Why Not Ask the Children!

Preschoolers at The Goddard School, located at the corner of Narrow Canyon and Aura Lane in Ladera Ranch – along with 49 other Goddard Schools across the country – recently took on the job of a lifetime . . . toy testers!

Of the over 400 Goddard Schools nationwide, the Ladera Ranch location was selected as a toy testing participant – quite a



Trial Run – These toy testers from the Ladera Ranch Goddard School (l-r) Livia F.; Christian A., and Charlotte C. were among The Goddard School preschoolers who participated in a nationwide toy testing study.

couple!

The 2014 Goddard School Preschooler-Approved Toy Test engaged children from infants to six years old to play with interactive toys during a week-long toy test in October while teachers observed and documented how the toy rated among the judging criteria –

such as, did it encourage interactive play, support learning and skill development, inspire creativity and more.

Now, the kids' votes are in, just in time for holiday shopping! The Goddard School Preschooler-Approved Top 10 Toys for 2014 are:

- Rock & Ball by Tiny

Love

- Green Toys Elephant-on-Wheels by Green Toys
- Bunny Peek A Boo by Smart Toys and Games, Inc.
- Starter Set by Lakeshore Learning Materials
- 12 Gel Crayons by Faber-Castell
- Arx 2.0 by Fat Brain Toys
- OgoDisk Mezo by OgoSport
- Primary Science Color Mixing Set by Learn-ing Resources
- Smarty Blocks by Fat Brain Toys
- 70 Model Building Set by K'NEX

The public got the chance to vote for the top toy on The Goddard School's toy test page from November 3 through November 26. The favorite Goddard School Preschooler-Approved Top Toy of the Year will be determined by the public votes and announced on December 2.

The Goddard School will then purchase and donate 100 of the winning toy to Toys for Tots.

To see the final result after December 2, go to www.goddard-school.com.

KOMBUCHA ON TAP POURS INTO LADERA RANCH

Melt Ladera Hot Yoga Is First in Town to Offer this Cold Refreshing Tea On Tap.

Ask people about kombucha and you'll hear, "I drink it everyday, I'm obsessed!" or "kombu... what?"

The effervescent non-alcoholic drink has been around for thousands of years, but more recently has become the drink of choice for the health conscious crowd.

Once found only in bottles at health food stores, it's now on the shelves of major grocery stores and even sprouting up in Target, Costco and drugstores.

The latest craze is kombucha on tap. Melt Ladera Hot Yoga is the first to have



it in Ladera Ranch.

The yoga studio serves two flavors of kombucha on tap with GT's Trilogy flavor selling out the fastest.

Kombucha is a live, raw, gluten-free, non-GMO,

certified organic, fermented tea with helpful bacteria that support digestion and the immune system.

Those who drink it say they feel more energized and enjoy the boost in their metabolism and vitality.

The drink, which originated in Asian some 2,000 years ago, was the drink of choice for Samurai warriors headed into battle.

Kombucha on Tap LLC, based in San Diego, delivers kombucha on tap to restaurants, bars, coffee shops, businesses and even homes throughout San Diego, Temecula and now Orange County.

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Pleasant Holidays.

Miles & Ribotto Elected to LARMAC

Resident Marc Miles and Joe Ribotto were elected to the LARMAC Board of Directors at the November 5, LARMAC Election, edging out Jeff Hamilton and Scott Weisgerber who also ran for a seat on the Board.

There were 36 Neighborhood Representatives in attendance, representing 2,278 homes throughout the community.

This equates to 32% of the total voting power in the community.

Vote totals are posted at www.LaderaLife.com.

Immediately following the Election, the LARMAC Board held



Joe Ribotto
Assistant Secretary



Marc Miles
Secretary



Kristin Vellandi,
President

an organization meeting to determine roles of the five-member Board. These new roles are as follows:

- Kristin Vellandi, President, filling a position her husband Alex previously held;
- Franco Tenerelli, Vice President;

- Ernie Medina, Treasurer
 - Marc Miles, Secretary
 - Joe Ribotto, Assistant Secretary
 - Jamie Macartney continues as a non-voting Board Officer.
- This evening would not

have been possible without the dedicated volunteers who gave their time to support the community. Thank you to the Neighborhood Representatives in attendance and the Assistants to the Inspector of Election for your great contributions!

Congratulations to the newly elected Directors and all participants for another successful LARMAC Election process!

Complete candidates votes are posted on www.LaderaLife.com.



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CALL FOR RESERVATIONS AND DETAILS

With the Help of Father and Station 58, Baby Madeleine Is Born in Time for Holidays

by Amy Spurgeon-Hoffman

Nothing brings the holiday message of "Peace On Earth, Goodwill Towards Mankind" closer to home than Ladera's own Paramedic Engine from Station 58 when it helped deliver a healthy baby girl unexpectedly at home last month.

"This was a defining moment in our family," said the still shocked proud father Patrick after he and a 9-1-1 operator collaborated to deliver his second daughter Madeleine Skye. "The dispatcher needs a big high-five!"

Patrick and his very pregnant wife Laure, a day late, spent that day low key. They order in from Chili's.

"I didn't feel like cooking," Laure shyly admitted – though who could blame her in the very uncomfortable end stages of pregnancy.

Shortly after dinner, Patrick recognized pregnancy signs of "transitioning" thanks to a birthing class the couple took prior to the birth of their 2-1/2-year-old daughter Kayleigh.

He grabbed his fully-charged smart phone, hit speaker mode, and dialed 9-1-1, while Laure's body proceeded quickly towards delivery.

Fate delivered him to Collette Whitlock, a 15-year Fire Communications Dispatcher, whose job it is to answer life threatening

calls. Her calm demeanor and specific instructions choreographed the call over the next several minutes. And while instructions were to keep the baby firmly inside the mother until paramedics arrived, Baby Madeleine had other plans.

"Patrick was very calm," recalled Collette. "He was a very good listener. I was just trying to convey the instructions. I was happy to be a part of Madeleine's birth."

Patrick, a mechanic and fabricator at an off-road shop, paid keen attention to Collette's instructions, while keeping his wife calm, keeping an eye on little Kayleigh and witnessing his child being born.

"Kayleigh was a team player," Patrick proudly said of his daughter who witnessed her baby sister's home delivery. "And the dispatcher was just really affirming. "I grew up around racing. I saw a lot of triumph and tragedy," he said while cradling his healthy baby girl. "It teaches you to trust yourself."

This success of this delivery had everything to do with all players remaining calm and receiving instructions from 9-1-1.

"We aren't overly religious, but we do believe in God. I know God was looking over us and that this is God's child."

Finally, Madeleine was



born and "pinked right up" Just in time for the fire crew to arrive and swiftly take over.

"Orange County Fire responds to over 120,000 calls a year and this past year we've only had six home deliveries," said OCFA Captain/PIO Steve Concialdi.

"This is pretty rare, however OCFA's highly trained dispatchers do a phenomenal job of staying calm and walking the callers through this very stressful situation.

Paramedics arrived on scene, quickly cleaned off the baby, wrapped her in warm blankets, and allowed the dad to cut the cord.

"Excellent work by all allowed a healthy baby girl to enter this world with an amazing story to tell forever," said Captain/PIO Steve. "The message is to stay calm and listen to the dispatcher."

Collette was awarded a stork pin by Fire Chief Jeffrey R. Bowman and the OCFA Board of Directors in for her help with the delivery.

Patrick, Laure, Kayleigh and Baby Madeleine (photo above) were all on hand to meet Collette face to face

"It's my first stork pin," Collette said. "If there's one thing people can do, it's to know your address. Most people call from cell phones. We need an address to get to you."

Patrick recalled calling his Mom in Texas around 9:25 pm on Nov. 11 to let her know the news!

"He said, 'I just delivered your granddaughter!'" Granny Julie said. "I was asleep and he jokes all the time. But this time, I could tell his voice was serious. My son took over, was taking care of everybody," Granny Julie beamed. "I am so proud of him."

Patrick said, "I would do it all again in a heartbeat. It just gives you more confidence," he said. "It makes me really appreciate community. It makes you appreciate what these firefighters do every day."

"Madeleine Skye will always have a special connection to Station 58," he smiled proudly.

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Bartlett Elected OC 5th District Supervisor

by Jett McCormick Chairman
Ladera Ranch Civic Council



Jett McCormick

On November 4th, Lisa Bartlett, the Mayor of Dana Point, was elected as our Orange County 5th District Supervisor.

This was an important election for Ladera Ranch as Supervisor Bartlett is basically our de facto Mayor.

Supervisor Bartlett's predecessor, Pat Bates, who has been elected State Senator in California's 36th Senatorial District, which includes Ladera Ranch, has been a great supporter of Ladera Ranch and was key in helping our community resolve a number of issues and get support from County services.

Supervisor Bartlett spent a lot of time in Ladera Ranch during her campaign and listened to the concerns and

comments of many residents. She has promised the same support for our community. The Civic Council congratulates Lisa Bartlett on her win.

There will be a number of issues that come up during Supervisor Bartlett's first term.

These include the upcoming LAFCO report on its recommendations for South County Governance. There are also transportation issues including the completion of the La Paz extension and the approval and construction of the Tesoro 241 Toll Road Extension to Cow Camp Road.

One immediate issue will be the approval of four-way stop signs on Narrow Canyon that the Civic Council worked with the County Traffic Committee to get approved.

These are just a few examples of issues the Supervisor will address.

The Civic Council looks forward to working with Supervisor Bartlett on these and many more topics to

ensure Ladera Ranch gets the services it need and remains a great place to live.

Take the Community Survey!

The Community Survey is designed to help key decision-makers at the County consider important decisions about the future of Ladera Ranch.

Specifically, the survey will identify areas of focus that the County may use to benefit our community. For example, this may include enhanced traffic improvements, police enforcement, fire safety, efforts to help the business community, or providing opportunities for enhanced local services.

The survey will remain open until January to allow residents time to take the survey. It is important we get good participation to ensure we get a good cross section of the Community to respond.

The survey is available at the Council's website at www.lrciviccouncil.org.

org.

There's a direct link to the survey on the home page of www.LaderaTimes.com. LARCS is also helping to spread the word by including the info in its email blasts and has provided a link on www.Laderalife.com. Make your voice count by taking the survey.

Committee Formation

The Civic Council has approved the formation of committee that include: Transportation/Public Safety, Public Works/Land Use, Governance, and Communications/Community Relations.

The Civic Council is seeking residents to volunteer for the new committees.

This will allow the Council to better serve the community and be more proactive to addressing issues.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, the information will be on the Council's website www.lrciviccouncil.org.

Next Meeting

The Civic Council does not have a meeting in December. The LRCC's next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on January 19, 2015, at the Santa Margarita Water District building. Help your Civic Council help you. Your membership will ensure you have a voice in your community's future and keep you informed on community issues.

Join today at www.lrciviccouncil.org. Membership is **FREE**.



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Farewell to the Fabulous 5th District

South County is blessed with a remarkable landscape, rich in manmade wonders and natural resources.

With our majestic mountains, idyllic wilderness areas, picturesque parks, serene coastal hills & canyons, beautiful beaches, legendary historical sites, and charming communities, the Fifth District provides a quality of life that is truly unsurpassed.

For the last eight years, I have been truly honored to serve the residents and businesses of the Fabulous Fifth District.

Over the last several weeks, I have spent time reflecting on the promises I made to the Fifth District residents during my campaign for Supervisor, which began two years before the 2006 election.

My philosophy about public service has always been simple – listen to the people you represent and don't be afraid to take a stand.

I have worked hard to preserve and protect the quality of life we enjoy as residents of this great county, and accomplishing the goals I set forth in my campaign.

These reflected the priorities that you, a Fifth District constituents, shared with me as I walked precincts, worked phone banks, and participated

in the many candidate forums.

These priorities fell into three areas: Finances; Government Transparency and Accountability; and Transportation.

One of the highest priorities for the Fifth District in 2006 and continuing today is traffic congestion relief. With the passage of Measure M2, the half-cent sales tax extension in 2006, Orange County as a whole will receive approximately \$15.5 billion over the next 30 years. I am proud to say that improvements to South County roads and freeways are high on the Measure M2 project priority list.

In addition to widening Interstate 5 from San Juan Capistrano to San Clemente, expanding traffic light signal synchronization on our arterials, and interchange improvements from El Toro to San Clemente we also broke ground on the long awaited La Pata Avenue Gap Closure Project.

Financially, our future is bright. The County's bankruptcy payoff will be completed in the next several years and will provide millions more in funding to the County's General Fund available for services such a public safety and capital projects.

During my tenure I have also joined my Board Col-

leagues in efforts to reduce the size and cost of county government in the amount of \$1.3 billion less in expenditures and eliminated numerous positions making the County government more efficient.

Beginning in 2013, the Fifth District became the focus for job creation and an uptick in our economy, which was great news for our county.

Due to a rebound in construction and housing industry, the cornerstone of our local economy, the Ranch Plan opened in June 2013.

The Ranch's Planning Area 1 has sold out and construction in Planning Area 2 is currently underway.

The Harbor Revitalization Project is also on track with construction on the commercial core scheduled to begin followed by waterside docks and slips.

Throughout my tenure on the Board of Supervisors, we have initiated a number of reforms to ensure Government Accountability and Transparency. These reforms include establishing an Office of Independent Review that provides full time civilian oversight of critical incidents and allegations of officer misconduct being investigated by the Sheriff Internal Affairs Department.

We also established a Police Community Reconciliation Program that provides

individuals an opportunity to seek resolution of a grievance regarding perceived abusive, disrespectful treatment by a police/sheriff officer through direct contact with the Sheriff's Department and the officer involved.

Additionally, the Board established the Performance Audit Department which is tasked with reviewing all departments to ensure County policies and procedures are being followed.

Our work to date has reaped significant financial benefits and improved work place code of conduct.

I have been fortunate to serve the residents of South County in one capacity or another. I learned as one of the early leaders in our successful effort to stop the El Toro airport that dedicated people, working together, can overcome great odds and make a lasting difference for their communities.

I believe the oath taken by elected officials is not merely a set of words, it is a solemn obligation to adhere to the constitution, uphold the rule of law, and defend the principles of our republic. It is an oath I have taken many times, and one I am preparing to take again as your Senator in the 36th District. Working to ensure that our government at the local, state and national level is a government that is "of, by, and for the people," is always my first priority.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Supervisor for Orange County's beautiful Fifth District. I thank you so much for your support and look forward to continuing to be a strong voice for South County in Sacramento.

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A Woman's Holiday

A List To Help Make Things Merry & Bright

The holidays are officially upon us and this fact is for better or for worse. Retailers rejoice, families either anticipate joys or have an overwhelming sense of foreboding, or a combination of both.

I cannot be called a holiday super-fan, though there are elements of them that I love with all my soul.

Perhaps my only hold back on the holiday season might be the extraordinary amount of work required from me as a woman.

All of the things I'm normally involved in continue and then there is shopping and parties, magic making and extravagant meals to prepare. It certainly could be argued that I create some of that work for myself. On the other hand there are societal expectations as well as familial expectations and who amongst us wants to disappoint?

Wherever you fit in the chaos that is the holiday season, to one degree or another there will be demands upon your time that incite stress and even susceptibility to colds and flus and all sorts of nonsensical yuck.

Because I feel your pain

and because I too am gearing up for the demands to come, pick and choose a few of the following suggestions. For you, and for those you love.

1. Throw out expectations of perfection. You will thank you. Everyone else will thank you. Perfection is a myth that sells magazines and fills therapists' offices.

Buy the magazine, cut yourself some slack, and save yourself some money.

2. If it doesn't feel right to you, don't do it. Want to stay home from the party of the year? Do it.

Skip the most hated and obligated family gathering of the year? Just say no.

You'll know in your heart those that you should attend and those that just suck your will to live. Listen to yourself. You know the right thing to do.

3. The truth is that shopping and brightly wrapped gifts are fun. And if we're all being honest, the best holiday memories never have anything to do with diamonds and extravagance. Get in touch with what matters and do that.

4. Your holiday should look like ... It should look however you want it to look.

Don't compare yourself to your friends, to Facebook or some made up standard in your head.

Be a trailblazer and remember feeling good is what holidays are about. There's not one way to do them right, only your way.

5. Cut yourself some slack and then pay it forward. No angry holiday shopping, and toss out unrealistic expectations. As benevolent as that may sound toward others, in the end, it will serve you most of all.

I've had some amazing holidays and they were always the result of slowing

down, taking stock and making love be the standard of the season.

(Visionary and lauded business accelerator Michelle Patterson is President of the Global Women Foundation and The California Women's Conference (www.californiawomensconference.com) - the largest women's symposium in North America that has featured esteemed First Ladies, A-List Hollywood celebrities, and high caliber business influencers. Michelle is also the CEO of Women Network LLC, an online digital media platform dedicated to giving women a voice and a platform to share their message. Michelle may be reached at WomenNetwork.com.)

KC Mitchell
Sales Director
Ladera Times



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Bloom Again Foundation Presents LUNAFEST 2014

Round up the family and spend the afternoon at the Autry National Center (formerly the Autry Western Heritage Museum). The collection includes 21,000 paintings, sculptures, costumes, textiles, firearms, tools, toys, musical instruments, and other objects from the American West along with special exhibitions.

Tickets are \$75 for adults / \$25 for children which includes free parking, entrance to the museum, LUNAFEST films, reception, and more! All proceeds go to providing rapid response financial assistance for living essentials to working women living at the poverty level when they miss work due to medical challenges.

The Autry National Center
in Griffith Park
 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles, CA 90027
 Website: www.theautry.org

Sunday, December 7th, 2014
Registration: 10:30am with free museum entrance
Films: 1:15pm
Reception: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

LADERA CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY SEASON

by Ashley Perkins

Ladera Ranch will officially begin the holiday season with the lighting of the Christmas tree and arrival of Santa Claus at 5:00 pm on Friday, December 5.

The annual Christmas tree and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be held at Town Green from 5:00 to 8:30 pm.

There will be hot chocolate to keep you warm and delicious holiday snacks such as cakes provided by The Clever Cake.

If you are looking to take a picture with Santa Claus, you will need a "Santa Photo Pass" this year.

Passes will be available starting at 5:00 pm. The pass will enable you to enjoy the activities and still get your picture taken with the jolly fellow by the end of the evening.

If you just want to come and enjoy the festivities, you will be able to see Santa again the following day on December 6 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Avendale Village Clubhouse, Avendale Boulevard and Daisy.

Santa will be there on Saturday to hear all your children's wishes and take pictures with the family just in time for Christmas cards to family and friends. Remember to bring your own camera.

One of my favorite things to do around Christmas time is get a hot coffee and stroll to the live Nativity Scene. LARCS is hosting a live Nativity at 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 6 at Town Green. Bring your family and friends to this live event and witness the story of Mary, Joseph and the birth of Jesus Christ. There will be live animals, Christmas carols, coloring contest drawing, and refreshments.

Bundle up with the family and grab a warm beverage and head down to this wonderful re-enactment.

With lights going up and Santa Claus coming to town, we tend to forget that not everyone celebrates Christmas this time of year. Ladera Ranch is diverse in culture and LARCS made



sure there was an event for most.

For Jewish and non-Jewish families alike, the lighting of the Menorah will be held at 4:30 pm on



Wednesday, December 17, at Town Green.

Hanukkah begins this year on the evening of Tuesday, December 16, and ends the evening of Wednesday, December 24.

Celebrating Hanukkah at the Ranch and the Festival of Lights has been a Ladera tradition since the first holiday season in community.

Now we have all been known to get in the car and drive around to all the beautiful homes and neighborhoods that put so much time and effort into bringing competition style decorations and lighting to our community.

In order to give these hard working individuals

their props, starting December 4, you need to go to www.laderalife.com and vote for your favorite individual and neighborhood decorations.

If you are looking to enter your individual home in the contest, your entry form will be due by 4:30 pm on Monday, December 1.

Judging for individuals will be conducted December 4 through 15. Vote online for you favorite individual home by 12:00 midnight on Monday, December 15.

If your neighborhood wants in on the fun, your entry form is due by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 10. Judging for neighborhoods will be done between 5:00 and 10:00 pm on Saturday, December 13.



Sign up yourself, or get your neighbors involved and get out to the garage and start untangling that tight ball of lights you threw in there from last

year. And finally, while no specific community plans are scheduled, Kwanzaa is being observed from December 26 to January 1,

culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration that honors African heritage in American culture.

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CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS
BY RAM MUKHERJI



This is the last article of 2014 I am penning for Ladera Times on Capistrano Unified School District.

All CUSD schools and the will be closed for two weeks of winter recess beginning on Monday, December 22. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5, 2015.

Counting weekends, this will amount to a 16-day break for the students and teachers.

CUSD Superintendent Kirsten Vital completed her first 100 days in the District. She is visiting all school

sites, meeting with the teachers, administrators and student bodies.

She has scheduled three community forums, the first was held on November 6 at the San Clemente High School.

The second forum will be held on January 26, 2015, at 7:00 pm at the District Board Room.

The third forum will be at Aliso Niguel High School on April 28, 2015, at 7:00 pm.

During the General Election on November 4, voters in CUSD Area A reelected

Lynn Hatton-Hudson.

Anna Bryson, Trustee representing Area 7, part of Laguna Niguel and Dana Point, did not seek reelection and Martha McNicholas will succeed her.

Gila Jones was elected to represent Area 6 covering parts of Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel and San Juan Capistrano. This Board seat was previously held by Trustee Ellen Addonizio for eight years. I will miss Ellen at the dais.

The Chief Communication Officer, Stephen K. Nichols left the District for

Waste Management Lists Holiday Pickup Schedule

Eloisa Orozco, Area Communications Manager for Waste Management has provided the Ladera Times with the holiday and tree disposal schedule for Ladera Ranch.

Christmas trees will be picked up during the regular trash pickup for three weeks following the holidays.

Residents are asked to remove all ornaments and tinsel and cut the

tree in half and put into recycling bin. Those without recycling bins are asked to



put the tree out with their trash bin. Flocked trees will also be picked up but they can-

not be recycled.

Trash pickup schedules for the holidays are:

- Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24, 2014: normal service.
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25, 2014: Thursday and Friday service will be delayed by one day.
- New Year's Eve – Wednesday, December 31, 2014: normal service.
- New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1, 2015: Thursday and Friday service will be delayed by one day.

other opportunities, and the District has hired Allen Trudell as the interim Chief. Mr. Trudell retired in 2013 as the Public Relations officer of Garden Grove School District.

Crosstown football rivals, Tesoro High School San Juan Hills High School met on November 7. Tesoro was victorious with a 45-14 score and earned a spot in the CIF-SS West Valley Division playoff.

Labor negotiations are continuing with Capistrano Unified Education Association, Capistrano School Employees Association, Teamsters and Unrepresented employees.

To support the "Ladrea Ranch No Bullying" Facebook campaign, the Ladera Times is distributing "Stop the Bullying" wristbands. They are available at a number of retail stores and also by contacting the Ladera Times at 949-481-3593. The wristbands have become so popular, the Ladera Times has ordered its second batch of 1,000. The Editor and Publisher, Jim Schmitt, said he will provide as many as the demand warrants.

Ladera Times wishes all a Happy, Safe, Enjoyable Holiday Season. Happy new Year.

Ram Mukherji is a former Trustee of Tri-City L.A. County Unified School District and Past President of Ladera Ranch Maintenance Corporation.

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Monthly Real Estate Report by Cathie Berlin

LADERA RANCH RECENT SALES ACTIVITY - 30 DAYS ENDING NOVEMBER 25, 2014*

Address	Beds	Baths	Sq Ft	Date Closed	Days On Market	List Price	Sold Price	Price Per Sq Foot
80 Sansovino	2	3	1215	10/30/2014	39	\$355,000	\$335,000	\$276
26 Triad	2	3	1250	11/19/2014	194	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$300
37 Rumford	2	3	1388	10/30/2014	18	\$389,000	\$389,000	\$280
36 Chadron	3	3	1417	11/6/2014	18	\$397,000	\$397,000	\$280
3 Dietes	2	3	1350	10/27/2014	27	\$399,900	\$400,000	\$296
78 Garrison	3	2	1471	10/28/2014	59	\$439,900	\$435,000	\$296
39 Harwick	3	3	1400	11/7/2014	91	\$454,900	\$439,000	\$314
9 Attleboro	3	3	1600	11/7/2014	36	\$449,000	\$455,000	\$284
48 Three Vines	3	3	1440	11/4/2014	97	\$473,200	\$464,000	\$322
29 Strawflower	3	3	1600	11/19/2014	40	\$465,000	\$465,000	\$291
48 Glenalmond	3	3	1600	11/4/2014	55	\$495,000	\$490,000	\$306
75 Wildflower	3	3	1626	10/28/2014	50	\$525,000	\$503,500	\$310
81 Trumpet Vine	3	3	1816	10/30/2014	34	\$509,900	\$509,900	\$281
49 Sheridan	3	3	1700	11/14/2014	24	\$520,000	\$520,000	\$306
27 Reese	3	4	1700	11/7/2014	203	\$529,000	\$529,000	\$311
56 Livingston	3	3	1600	10/28/2014	86	\$529,000	\$530,500	\$332
17 St. Mays Road	3	3	1787	11/7/2014	30	\$549,000	\$545,000	\$305
29 Potters	3	2	1550	11/21/2014	24	\$549,000	\$549,000	\$354
16 Iron Horse Trail	3	3	1780	10/31/2014	144	\$595,000	\$585,000	\$329
2 Conservatory	4	3	2100	11/21/2014	14	\$639,000	\$629,500	\$300
21 Danbury	3	3	1950	11/14/2014	124	\$679,000	\$630,000	\$323
136 Main	3	3	1995	11/10/2014	85	\$649,000	\$649,000	\$325
21 Kyle	4	3	1950	11/12/2014	86	\$677,500	\$667,000	\$342
12 Goose Pond	3	3	2251	11/19/2014	130	\$698,000	\$685,000	\$304
6 Castor	4	3	2000	10/31/2014	80	\$739,000	\$705,000	\$353
15 Maitland	4	3	2100	11/14/2014	35	\$735,000	\$730,000	\$348
2 Dawnwood	4	3	2200	10/27/2014	111	\$749,000	\$730,000	\$332
22 Bahari	2	3	1770	11/14/2014	47	\$739,150	\$739,150	\$418
10 Roycroft	4	3	2200	11/10/2014	61	\$744,999	\$740,000	\$336
12 Merriweather	4	3	2525	11/10/2014	104	\$799,000	\$800,000	\$317
2 Langford	5	3	3100	11/21/2014	53	\$899,999	\$825,000	\$266
5 Sea Grape	4	3	2983	11/20/2014	208	\$899,999	\$850,000	\$285
38 Downing	4	5	3067	11/20/2014	156	\$900,000	\$905,000	\$295
4 Calliandra	4	4	3100	11/4/2014	66	\$1,069,000	\$1,000,000	\$323
1 Sea Grape	5	5	3855	10/29/2014	91	\$1,049,000	\$1,025,000	\$266
25 Ali	4	5	3600	11/7/2014	83	\$1,439,000	\$1,400,000	\$389
4 Moonlight	5	6	5886	10/31/2014	143	\$1,849,000	\$1,825,000	\$310

*Based on information from the Association of Realtors/Multiple listing as of 11/25/2014 and / or other sources. MLS data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed accurate by the MLS. The Broker/Agent providing the information contained herein may or may not have been the listing agent.

Home Sales to Improve in 2015

by Cathie Berlin,
Real Estate Editor

According to Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors and Mel Watt, director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, they expect homes sales and home prices to rise next year.

Attending a forum at the 2014 Realtors Conference and Expo in New Orleans last month, both felt that these improvements would benefit both buyers and sellers, but also noted that challenges may remain as the market continues to recover.

"The improving job market has consumers feel-

ing more confident, and the rebound in home prices is building household wealth for homeowners and giving them the ability to sell after waiting the last few years," Yun said.

Builder confidence continues to come back strongly but in some areas builders are still only at half of the normal production levels. But Yun also reminds us that despite consumer and builder confidence, the market is still in recovery mode and some markets are doing better than others.

While mortgage rates are still very enticing, student loans are still a barrier for Millennials who still have yet to purchase a home

as well as tight lending standards for consumers.

"On the other hand, Multi-family housing starts have rebounded back to normal since the downturn, mostly due to the strong demand for renting," Yun said. "Single family construction still needs to increase in certain areas of the country to alleviate supply shortages and keep up with pent up demand."

Positive developments in the labor market should outweigh these hurdles the industry must overcome in 2015, according to Yun.

Locally, the week ending November 17, the median list price in Ladera Ranch was \$899,900. Inventory

is sufficiently low due to less homes on the market during the holiday season. The average asking price per square foot is \$328.00 and the average days on the market is 92 days.

If you have any questions or would like more info about selling or buying real estate, please feel free to contact me at 949-291-1959, or email me at: cathieberlin@cox.net, or contact any Realtor® of your choosing, including one of the several advertising their services in Ladera Times.

You can also find me on Facebook at: **Ladera Ranch Homes-Cathie Berlin.**



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Ladera Ranch Homes - Cathie Berlin



Following are highlights from the Orange County Police Blotter. For more, go to LaderaTimes.com.

November 27

1:51 am, Spanish-speaking male says a 37-y-o, 5', medium build female coworker hit him with a wire cable, 600 block of Corporate Drive

10:36 am, male subject is reportedly sitting in the bike lane between Crown Valley & Sienna Parkways.

12:45 am, man is trying to fight with other patrons outside Casa Rancho restaurant but security is restraining him, Mercantile West Shopping Plaza.

November 26

1:32 pm, father states there has been some problems in his daughter's relationship and she did not go to work today and has been unable to make contact with her by telephone or text, Sandalo Court.

November 25

11:46 am, a pedestrian check led to the arrest of a 21-y-o white male, Crown Valley and Antonio Parkways.

9:03 am, a woman said a voice mail left on her 16-y-o daughter's cell phone by her ex-boyfriend says he is going to "beat down" her current boyfriend, Bancroft Street.

November 24

5:58 pm, a 32-35-y-o female is trying to get into her vehicle but Kohls employees are trying to physically detain her for shop lifting while a 911 call came in from a woman who says she was attacked in the Kohl's parking lot, Mercantile East Shopping Plaza.

4:11 pm, a cooperative adult female is being detained for shoplifting at Kohl's, Mercantile East Shopping Plaza.

12:57 pm, a 13-14-y-o white female is reported to be outside a residence knocking and pounding and kicking the door and is calling for her mom which makes it possible she lives there, Hinterland Way.

November 23

12:29 pm, a bobcat has been spotted behind the informant's house and Fish and Game has been notified but they usually don't respond to sightings, Sansovino.

11:53 am, informant says he is witness to male subject beating a dog outside Starbucks and is still in the

coffee house, Bridgepark Shopping Plaza.

November 22

9:48 pm, in an on-going problem, an informant says a 17-y-o white male just pounded on the informant's door and the informant has him on video doing it, St Mays Road.

8:58 pm, a group of 7-10 teens hanging in the park by informant's residence, Pleasanton Lane.

1:29 pm, man says he bought an iPod off Craig's List that the seller still has connected to his account and is not returning his phone calls, Sklar Street.

11:09 am, man bolted out of Starbucks with property that didn't belong to him and made his getaway in a red Chevy Cruz, Bridgepark Shopping Plaza.

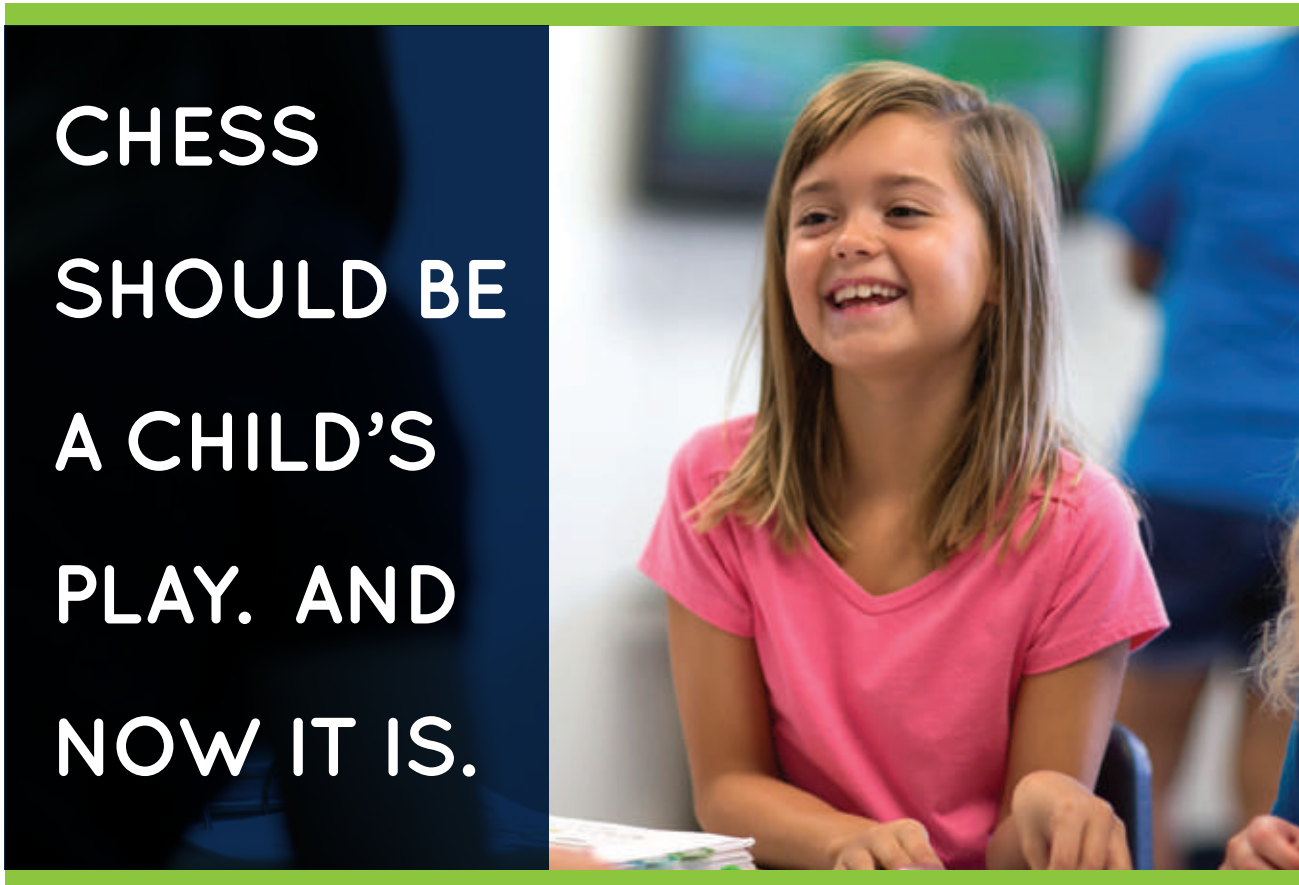
November 21

9:58 pm, an informant heard two shots heard coming from somewhere in the area and another informant heard it too, Creighton Place & O'Neill Drive.

5:15 pm, deputies asked to check on USC fans waving signs and flags and getting people to honk and believes they are drinking and not paying attention to the kids who are with them, Antonio & Crown Valley Parkways.

2:24 pm, a male with a head wrap jumped out of a white van looking suspicious but it turned out he works for a local landscaper and was dropped off and was waiting for a fellow co-worker to get off, Sienna Parkway & Covenant Hills Road.

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because he is afraid of everything. By following these stories, children quickly start to play chess and solve chess puzzles.

In addition to chess, The Goddard School also introduces STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) concepts early on to help children develop a strong foundation for their future education and a passion for STEAM learning. The program is specially designed to encourage creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking, all of which are 21st century skills.

For more information, please visit www.goddardschool.com or call 949-218-6200 to schedule a time to visit. The Goddard School located in Ladera Ranch is located at 1 Aura Lane, Ladera Ranch, CA.



1 Aura Lane, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694

LADERA TIMES

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Calendar of Events

D E L TC F
www.LaderaTimes.com

Friday, December 5 – Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa Arrival from 5:00 to 8:30 pm, Town Green, corner of Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way. Visit www.LaderaLife.com for details.

Saturday, December 6 – Santa Visits and Live Nativity Scene.
☐ Santa Visits from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Avendale Clubhouse, 1 Daisy Street. Don't for-

get to bring your camera. ☐ Live Nativity Scene: Witness the mystery and tradition of the very 1st Christmas at the walk-thru live nativity, a LARCS Partnership event with Crossline Ladera community group from 5:00 to 6:30 pm at Town Green, Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way.

Sunday, December 16 – Hanukkah begins

the evening of Tuesday, December 16, thru the evening of Wednesday, December 24.

Wednesday, December 17 – Menorah Lighting, songs and Menorah Lighting ceremony, a LARCS Partnership event with the Jewish Community of Ladera Ranch Club, 4:30 pm in Town Green, Sienna Parkway & Mercantile Way.

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve.

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas.

Friday, December 26 thru Thursday, January 1 – Kwanzaa.

Wednesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve.

Thursday, January 1 – New Year's Day.



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STRIKERS FC Soccer Tryouts

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Cox Sports Park - Turf Soccer Field
Ladera Ranch

U8 to U11 - 3:45 arrival, 4:00-5:30 pm Tryout
(Born August 1, 2003 to July 31, 2007)

U12 to U15 - 5:15 arrival, 5:30-7:00 pm Tryout
(Born August 1, 1999 to July 31, 2003)

For Fall 2015 U16 and above or entire team inquiries, please email soccer@laderaranchsoccer.org.



LaderaRanchSoccer.org



Team Moran Pumpkin Winners

Pumpkin Winners –Team Moran Realtors Jeff and Julie Moran (insert above), held their annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest and the photos on this page show some of the winners: Boy Flying Plane (above) and Mickey Thanks Firefighter (above middle)

both carved by Wyeth Lee; Mickey Mouse (above right) by Daniel Blyskal; Jack O' Lantern (middle top) by Braeden Boughton; Ninja Turtle (top right) by the Whalens; Headless Man (below right) by Jett McCormick; and Ghost (below left) by Gino & Amy Fossati.



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LADERA TIMES

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Holly, Jolly and Oh-So-Safe! Of course you want to include your furry companions in the festivities, but as you celebrate this holiday season, try to keep your pet's eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. Here are some tips:

O Christmas Tree

Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water – which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset – from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria.

Tinsel-less Town

Kitties love this spar-

kly, light-catching "toy" that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths.

But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery.

No Feasting for the Furrries

By now you know not to feed your pets chocolate and anything sweetened with xylitol, but do you know the lengths to which an enterprising fur kid will go to chomp on something yummy? Keep



your pets away from the table and secure the lids on garbage cans.

Toy Joy

Looking to stuff your pet's stockings? Choose gifts that are safe.

- Dogs have been known to tear apart their toys and swallow the pieces, which can then become lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines. Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible.

- Long, stringy things are a feline's dream, but the most risky toys for cats involve

ribbon, yarn and loose little parts that can get stuck in the intestines, often necessitating surgery. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy or the interactive cat dancer.

Forget the Mistletoe & Holly

When ingested, holly can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many varieties of lilies, can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested.

Leave the Leftovers

Fatty, spicy and no-no human foods, as well as bones, should not be fed to your furry friends.

That Holiday Glow

Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over.

Wired Up

Keep electrical wires, batteries, and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth.

Put the Meds Away

Make sure all of your medications are locked behind secure doors.

Careful with Cocktails

If your celebration includes adult holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them.

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